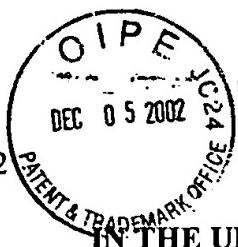


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Sujal M. Patel, et al.) Group Art Unit Unassigned
App. No. : Unassigned 10007003)
Filed : October 25, 2002)
For : SYSTEMS AND METHODS)
FOR PROVIDING A)
DISTRIBUTED FILE)
SYSTEM INCORPORATING)
A VIRTUAL HOT SPARE)
Examiner : Unassigned)

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Dear Sir:

Enclosed is form PTO-1449 listing references that are also enclosed.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g) and (h), Applicant makes no representation that a search has been made or that the information is considered to be material to patentability. Additionally, inclusion on this list is not an admission that any of the cited documents are prior art in this application. Further, Applicant makes no representation regarding the completeness of this list, nor represents that better art does not exist.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of this application or upon filing if this is a CPA or RCE, and no fee is required in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1), (b)(2), or (b)(4).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 12/2/02